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FROM : Amembassy MOSCOW

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142

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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WASHINGTON

DESP. NO.

February 2, 1959 E.M.

DATE

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SUBJECT: Soviet Lecture on International Situation

On January 22 a lecture on the international situation was given by an official of the Main Political Administration of the Armed Forces at the Central House of the Soviet Army to an audience of about 150 military officers and civilians. The highlights of the lecture were as follows:

The Berlin Situation looks more dangerous than it is in fact. The crucial point is that the west will not fight over Berlin because it can not. The socialist bloc is militarily superior to the West. France is totally involved in Algeria. Britain simply will not fight over Berlin. The Federal Republic does not yet have a large enough army. Italy is not even worth mentioning. The west is in the grip of an economic crisis and is torn by political dissensions. It is because he realizes this impotence that Mr. Dulles has already started diplomatic maneuvering to get out of the dead end in which he finds himself. His retreat on free elections for German unification was only the first step in these maneuvers, and it has triggered similar maneuvering on the part of the other western powers. There is already talk in the West of accepting confederation. It is for these reasons that the USSR knows that the Berlin issue will be settled on Soviet terms.

The Seven Year Plan is internationally significant because it opens the period of decisive economic competition with the capitalist world. At the conclusion of this competition the socialist camp will be economically more powerful than the capitalist. It is already militarily more powerful and will remain so. This combination will be instrumental in the final victory of socialism over capitalism. Although not stated in so many words, the lecturer clearly implied that economic power will be used by the USSR in intensified economic warfare.

Mikoyan's visit to the United States was in fact a summit meeting completely on Soviet terms; when, where, about what, and with whom the USSR chose. There are only two paths, peaceful coexistence or war, Mikoyan's visit demonstrated to the world that the USSR is striving for peace through discussions and that the United States must turn from the senseless policy of cold war and "positions of strength" and grasp the outstretched hand of the USSR offering peaceful negotiations.

The 21st Congress of the CPSU will not result in any change whatsoever in

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Priority

By

A/ND 86740

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7/13/62

SUBJECT: Page 2 of Despatch No. 442 from Moscow

Soviet foreign policy. The leaders of the West are in for a sore disappointment if they expect that the USSR will in any way diminish its dedication to the prevention of war and to peaceful economic competition, or otherwise change its peace-loving policy of the past.

The Lunar Rocket has great international significance in at least four respects. (1) It proves to the entire world Soviet superiority in science and technology. (2) It establishes Soviet military superiority (defensive, of course). (3) It gives the USSR the psychological and political stature of being the leader of the world. (4) It augments Soviet diplomatic strength and initiative.

The Neutralist Nations are at present being subjected to great diplomatic, economic, and political pressures by the capitalist bloc. The objective is to turn the neutrals against the Soviet Union, to divide them by false fears of Communism, and thereby to reimpose capitalist domination. The speaker reviled Tito as a conscious or unconscious tool in this imperialist offensive and claimed utter failures of his efforts thus far in India and Indonesia. While no concern over the UAR was expressed, the usual claims of solidarity and eternal friendship were absent. The reporting officer's impression is that the treatment of this topic was carefully designed to allow for the possibility of future adverse developments.

The lecturer originally scheduled to speak. A. G. MAKSIMOVICH was ill and a substitute, introduced as Colonel CHEREPANOV from the Main Political Administration, took his place. The audience, consisting almost exclusively of men, was seated mostly at long green baize tables, where perhaps half took notes.

The lecturer started with the world wide significance of the Seven Year Plan as opening a new era which will be decisive in the economic competition of the socialist and capitalist camps. He dwelt on the jubilation with which its announcement was greeted by friends of the USSR throughout the world, and he included the common people in America among these. World attention will be riveted to the 21st Congress discussion of the Plan and the political and economic leaders of the United States will now be listening very closely to the tone of Khrushchev's and Mikoyan's statements. They will hope for a softening of Soviet

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resolve, but they will be disappointed. The 21st Congress will result in no changes in Soviet foreign policy. The dedication to prevention of war, to peaceful economic competition, and to the peace-loving policy of the past will remain steadfast.

In proof of these contentions, the speaker cited the tone and substance of the nationwide discussions of the Plan which have taken place since its announcement, and the organization of new forms of labor such as the Communist Labor Brigades.

His labored assurances of no change imply an effort to convince his hearers, many of whom appeared to be propagandists in their own right, that there will be no retreat from the ambitious goals and consequent heavy demands set up by the Plan. His treatment of the foreign significance appeared intended to dash any hopes which the West might have that the strain of meeting the Plan would cause a retreat or softening of Soviet foreign policy.

The lecturer turned to an elaboration of the meaning of the Plan for economic competition between socialism and capitalism. The USSR, he said, is planning to create a surplus economy both in agriculture and industry. Canadian wheat exporters are already protesting to their government because they are afraid that the USSR will flood the world with cheap grain to feed the starving millions and thus ruin the capitalists' lucrative market. By 1970, agricultural production will have surpassed that of the United States. By 1965, the industrial production of the socialist camp will be greater than that of the capitalist.

Capitalist nations are in the grip of an economic crisis which started in the US and has extended to Western Europe. It does not matter what it is called, depression or other, the fact is that recent desperate monetary measures and unemployment statistics prove that it is taking place. The important thing about this crisis is that it is weakening the US and the West in its capacity for economic competition, as well as militarily and diplomatically, while the socialist camp is increasing in strength all the time.

1958 was a year of victories on all fronts, and the situation outlined above means only one thing; that the socialist camp will win over the capitalist. Even in the US this fact is acknowledged, and the question discussed is only how soon will the declining US be surpassed.

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The lecturer explained that the basic reasons for these developments lie in the very nature of capitalism and that to have any chance in the competition, the West would have to abandon capitalism which, of course, it cannot and will not do. Among other hypothetical measures that the West could take in this connection would be to drop trade barriers and trade freely with all nations.

Using free trade as a springboard, the speaker discussed with unusual force and intensity the basic strategy of the Seven Year Plan. The achievements of the USSR under the Plan will set such a stupendous example in contrast to the predicted shabby performance of the West that all the uncommitted and newly independent nations of Africa and Asia will commit themselves to the Communist way. This, of course, will be a self accelerating process in the ultimate victory of socialism over the capitalist bloc.

The Soviet lunar rocket was next taken up. After the usual inordinate self praise, the international significance of the rocket was explained as fourfold. (1) It demonstrated to the world that Soviet science and technology is supreme. (In this connection the lecturer made the flat statement that only the USSR and the USA have rockets of their own and that Soviet rockets are better.) (2) It established equally vividly Soviet military superiority. (3) In the all-important field of prestige, it gives the USSR first place in the eyes of the world. (4) As a consequence of all these, it strengthens Soviet diplomacy and diplomatic initiative.

In an elaboration of this thesis the speaker explained that the US so fears Soviet rocketry that it has attempted to neutralize Soviet superiority by proposing in the UN a ban on the use of space for military purposes. The USSR naturally suggested that the elimination of foreign bases be added to the proposal in order to neutralize the positions from which the US threatens the USSR. However, the USA refused this fair exchange thereby revealing its aggressive purposes and its malevolent pursuit of the cold war policy to all the world. In their worry and disgust over such US malice the peoples of the world naturally turn their sympathies to the USSR.

As an indication of the prestige of the USSR the speaker cited the mock world government cabinet drawn up by the Daily Express with Khrushchev as premier.

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On the diplomatic front, the rocket issued in a new era according to the speaker. Earlier eras dominated by the West had been those of atomic diplomacy and hydrogen diplomach characterized by the "cold war" and by the "position of strength" policy. The rocket introduced the "sunny" diplomacy of the USSR casting warmth and light upon all mankind.

The earlier diplomacies of the Western nations inevitably failed dismally, according to the speaker, and now their diplomacy of a "position of strength" is senseless since the USSR is militarily the stronger power, and is recognized as such by everyone. Therefore the West is being forced to move toward a diplomacy of negotiation. This is the basic reason for such symptoms of improved relations as have appeared. This is the true meaning of Mikoyan's visit to America.

Mikoyan, the speaker pointed out, arrived only eight hours after the Soviet rocket had passed the moon. This timing was psychologically very clever as was also the "private" nature of the visit. For two and a half years the US has been rejecting and resisting a summit meeting and in Mikoyan's visit the USSR imposed a summit meeting completely on Soviet terms, when, where, about what, and with whom the USSR chose. At the same time the US press revealed all the thoughts and ideas which the US government was interested in bringing up at a meeting. The results are that the USSR has demonstrated its goodwill. "How can anyone accuse us of evil intentions when we are militarily more powerful and at the same time strive for negotiations as the peaceful solution to world tension." The cold war has been melted a little. Both sides will think long and hard over it. There are only two paths open, war or negotiation. Mikoyan's visit helped movement toward negotiations.

The speaker introduced the topic of Berlin by stating that only the GDR was adamant in its rejection of negotiations, and that this is due to Adenauer's desire to preserve Berlin as a base for espionage and aggression against the GDR. But Berlin, he explained, is such a tense issue because it is a trigger or a trip wire for war.

The present situation of the Berlin question was described as follows. On the 27th of May the six month grace period ends, and, if no progress has been made toward a solution, the USSR will transfer its "occupation" functions to the GDR. Then the GDR will defend the sovereignty of its boundaries on all routes

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to Berlin, rail, road, water, and air (sic). The Western answers have been (1) that they will not relinquish their occupation and will keep their troops in Berlin, and (2) that they will fight their way in if access to Berlin is blocked. The Soviet Union has declared that it will not fight over Berlin, but will fight beside the GDR in defense of its boundaries.

In actual fact, the lecturer continued, the situation is not really so bad. If one disregards the ravings of a few madmen, it is obvious that no one will actually fight. The fact is that the West can not fight. France is totally tied up in Algeria, the British will not fight in Europe, the GDR does not yet have a sufficient army, and the Italians are not even worth mentioning. Recognizing this fact, Mr. Dulles has already started diplomatic maneuvers to get himself out of the dead end in which he finds himself. The first of these maneuvers was his retreat from a hitherto absolutely hard insistence on free elections. Everyone sees and reports a basic change in US policy. Under such public pressure from the United States, voices are already being raised in the GDR calling for a new approach and constructive alternate proposals. There is even talk of accepting a confederation of the two Germanies even if only temporarily. Of course, the Western strategy behind this is to move the capital to Berlin, establish some sort of diplomatic relations, and then try to subvert the GDR into the capitalist camp.

Still, there has been a move in the West toward realistic policies over Berlin. Essentially this is because, in addition to their military inferiority, the Western nations are in the grip of economic crisis and because NATO is torn by dissensions. If in addition to all this one considers the great desire of the German people for unification, then it is obvious that Adenauer's position is pure adventurism. Therefore, the USSR knows that the Berlin question will be solved on Soviet terms.

Turning to the Middle East and South Asia, the speaker pointed out the sudden crowding of Western figures into these areas, especially Cairo. He explained that this is a symptom of the great political economic and diplomatic offensive mounted by the West against the nations of this area. The purposes were alleged to be the alienation of these nations from the USSR, the disintegration of their anti-colonialist solidarity through false propaganda about a so-called communist threat, and their subjugation to imperialist power. Italy,

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Greece, and Spain are allegedly preparing to form a Mediterranean pact into which Egypt is to be ensnared. Tito is, consciously or not, aiding the capitalist imperialists by trying to form a neutral block under his leadership. Tito has so far failed in both India and Indonesia because the people of these two nations know that, were it not for the USSR, they would be enslaved by the capitalists.

The lecture ended with a blaze of self-adulation. On the eve of the 21st Congress, the USSR stands between the glorious victories of the past and the even more glorious victories to come.

One question was asked at the close of the lecture concerning Nasser's attitude toward GPR offers to help with the High Dam. The speaker quoted Nasser to the effect that assistance without strings would be welcome, but that assistance with conditions would be outrightly rejected.

Although the overconfident tone of the lecture as a whole is to be accounted for largely by that cast of pre-Congress propaganda generally, the possibility of serious Soviet misinterpretation of the U.S. position, especially on Germany, such as was reflected in the speaker's words, is a factor which must be considered.

For the Ambassador:

David E. Mark
 David E. Mark
 First Secretary of Embassy

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